

Regional Infant Toddler Planning and Assessment

King County Report

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Child Care Resources
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King County Infant & Toddler Systems & Services Planning

I. Introduction & Regional Overview.

King County is the state's largest county with a population estimate for 2009 of 1,916,441, 29% of the state's total. In King County 183,000 (59%) of children under the age of 6 have all parents in the workforce and so are participants in the system of non-parental, most often out-of-home, care (for example, licensed child care, family, friend and neighbor care, etc). While there are many different programs currently available to serve such a large number of children, this number is still inadequate to meet the needs of families, particularly families with infants. These programs also vary significantly in quality. Supporting safe, healthy and nurturing environments in so many programs is a daunting task for a support system that is underfunded and losing resources.

King County's population is economically, racially, culturally, and linguistically diverse. This diversity is both strength and a challenge for the system of care. While the median household income in King County is \$69,200, 22.4% of the population was living below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) (2006-2008 data). Data averaged over 2006-2008 also show that families with children are more likely to be in poverty, with 13.5% of children under the age of 5 living in families at or below 100% of the FPL, 25.8% of families with children under the age of 18 below 200% of the FPL, and 32.2% of school-age children receiving free or reduced price meals.

The current group of children birth to age 3 is the most racially and ethnically diverse ever in King County and the trend toward greater diversity is increasing. 43% of children under the age of 5 are from a racial/ethnic group other than white, non-Hispanic. 38.2% of children under the age of 6 have at least one parent who was born outside of the United States and 23.2% of the population speaks a language other than English at home. There is even greater cultural diversity, as families who speak the same language may come from different cultures and what constitutes a family may be defined differently among groups having racial/ethnic similarities. The childrearing practices of our diverse population are diverse as well, and enrich our understanding of childhood development. Parents, however, are having difficulty finding care that meets their cultural expectations and communication across language and cultural groups can be difficult.

A key factor affecting King County is disproportionality. A higher proportion of people of color are found in groups at risk than in the general population. The large size of the county means that county-wide rates may look better and mask the very high rates of risk in sub-populations. Even if a county-wide rate is low, the number of people affected by the factor is high because of the large population. For example, infant mortality rates for King County from 2003-2007 were 4.5 deaths per 1000 live births, the lowest they have ever been. However, the rate for African Americans was almost double that at 8.6 and for American Indian/Alaska Natives it was triple the overall rate at 13.7 per 1000. Even with the low overall rate, there were more deaths in King County than in any other county in the state.

Despite its large size, King County has a history of collaboration among the support systems for families of young children that is certainly an important asset. In the early 1990s early learning leaders in King County met to form Champion's for Children (CFC), which advocated for systems coordination and sought to broaden support for early care in the business community. Leaders from culturally diverse groups were also active in this era, forming ethnic and culturally specific "task forces" that coalesced around critical early learning issues in their respective communities. CFC efforts led to a broader collaboration in the late 1990s called Project Lift-Off, which deepened the collaborative effort to include business and philanthropy. Through this work, the Business Partnership for Early Learning (BPEL) began to support home visiting programs, SOAR was born and government and philanthropy formed a unique partnership to fund innovative early learning projects (The SOAR Opportunity Fund). The BPEL home visiting model has been adopted, with plans for broad expansion by United Way, and SOAR has been an active and effective coalition since 2004. Early learning coalitions have also been active in King County regions where early learning stakeholders meet consistently through the FACES (Family and Children Early Support) groups to address unique regional needs. Early Learning stakeholders in King County have long recognized the power of collaboration, and have effectively brought together diverse constituencies to act on behalf of children and families.

The process to gather stakeholder input for this needs assessment drew on existing collaborations and on other work that has been done recently in the community around the needs of families and early learning. Two sessions with key informants were held, one with the Public Health Child Care Health team and one with Child Care Resources staff who work with infant

and toddler sites. In two stakeholder meetings, the data and the input from the key informants was vetted and additional information added.

The King County Children & Family Commission recently funded a series of parent focus groups in the Latino, Cambodian, Samoan communities and on Vashon Island. The reports that resulted from these groups gave further depth to the findings about the service system and the needs of families.

II. Child and Family Profile of King County.

a. Reporting on Key Measures for King County.

Community Demographics	Number ¹	Percent ¹
1) Number/% of young children, toddlers, and infants (2008 data)		
Under 5 years	112230	28.4%
Age 0 (<365 days)	22560	5.7%
Age 1 (12 to <24 months)	22590	5.7%
Age 2 (24 to <36 months)	22450	5.7%
Age 3 (36 to <48 months)	22120	5.6%

Data Source: 1990-2008 Population Estimates: Population Estimates for Public Health Assessment, Washington State Department of Health and Krupski Consulting. December 2009. Percent of all children under age 18 in King County.

2) Number of families with children under the ages of 18 by age of children in family²

Families with children under age 18	224400	
Families with children under age 6 only	58900	26.2%
Families with children under 6 years and ages 6 to 17 years	37400	16.7%
Families with children ages 6-17 only	128000	57.0%

The “under 6 and ages 6-17” means there are at least 2 children, and one child is under age 6 and one child is in the age group 6-17 years. Numbers and percents may not add up to total or 100% due to rounding

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2008. Estimate of number of families.

3) Number/% of households with children under 18

Total	227000	
married couples	165000	72.7%
single female head of household	44000	19.4%
single male head of household	16000	7.0%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2008.

4) % of children under 5 by race (2009)

Total	114032	
White non-Hispanic	64837	57%
Black/African American non-Hispanic	8394	7%
American Indian/Alaska Native	839	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	16089	14%
Asian	15059	13%
Pacific Islander	1030	1%
Two or more race groups	9633	8%
Hispanic	14240	12%

Data Source: 1990-2009 Population Estimates: Population Estimates for Public Health Assessment, Washington State Department of Health and Krupski Consulting. January 2009. Specific race categories represent individuals of single race only; individuals who identified themselves as multiracial are in the “two or more” race category.

5) Median income level (\$)

King County	\$39,400
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Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2008. In 2008 inflation-adjusted dollars. Median family income: \$87,900. Median household income: \$69,200

6) Parental employment

#of children in care zone (2009)	183,068 children 12 and under
% of children under 6 with all parents in the workforce	59.2% of all children under 6

Data Source: Washington State Child Care Resources & Referral Network. Care zone is the number of children ages 12 and under who either live in a single-parent home where the parent is working, or live in a two-parent home where both parents are working.

7) #/% of children of immigrant and refugee families

38.2% of children under 6 in families have at least 1 foreign-born parent

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2008. Child may be either native or foreign-born.

8) #/% of children receiving free or reduced price meals

83250	32.2%
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Data Source: Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. 2008-2009 data. School-age children only.

9) #/% of population who speak a language other than English at home

Total	23.2%
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Specific languages:	Percent (among those speaking a language other than English at home)	Percent speaking English less than "very well" (among those speaking the language)
Spanish /Spanish Creole	25.4%	51%
Chinese	12.7%	55%
Vietnamese	7.5%	64%
African languages	5.8%	51%
Tagalog	5.7%	40%
Korean	5.3%	57%
Russian	4.4%	52%
Japanese	2.8%	38%
French (incl. Patois, Cajun)	2.7%	18%
Other Asian languages	2.5%	31%
Other (Indic) languages	2.5%	45%
Other Slavic languages	2.5%	52%
Other Pacific Island languages	2.4%	38%
German	2.3%	19%
Hindi	2.1%	17%
Other Indo-European languages	1.5%	37%
Laotian	1.2%	62%
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	1.2%	52%
Persian	1.1%	37%
Arabic	1.0%	46%
Scandinavian languages	1.0%	14%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2008. For population 5 and older only. Languages with <1% not shown.

10) Percent of population high school graduate or higher level of education

Percent	91.8% of population ages 25 and older
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Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2008. For population 25 and older only.

Measures of Vulnerable Families

11) #/% poor and low-income children

Children under 5 living in poverty (at or below 100% FPL)	13.5% of children under 5
Children living in low-income households (at or below 200% FPL)	25.8% of children under 18

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2008.

	3612 (3- years combined)	21.3 births per 1,000 females 15-19
12) #/% mothers who are teens King County		

Data Source: Birth Certificate Data: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. 2006-2008 data.

13) #/% parents who are single (2008 births)	6737	
By Age:		
15-17	350	5.2%
18-19	714	10.6%
20-24	2245	33.3%
25-29	1715	25.5%
30-34	926	13.7%
35-39	583	8.7%
40 and over	195	2.9%

Data Source: Birth Certificate Data: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. 2008 data. Data on mothers only, at the time of birth.

14) #/% babies born with low birth weight (<2500 grams or 5.5 pounds)		
King County	1638	6.5%

Data Source: Birth Certificate Data: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. 2008 data.

Measures of School Success

15) %meeting or exceeding 3rd grade math and reading standards

Percent of King County students met or exceeded reading standard	76.9%
Percent of King County students met or exceeded math standard	71.2%

The percent of students who met reading and math standards varied by race/ethnicity and by school district:

	% Meeting Reading Standard Across All King County School Districts		% Meeting Math Standard Across All King County School Districts	
	Lowest %	Highest %	Lowest %	Highest %
White non-Hispanic	61%	94%	58%	87%
Black/African American non-Hispanic	45%	90%	30%	70%
American Indian/Alaska Native	45%	73%	33%	70%
Asian	58%	97%	55%	91%
Pacific Islander	59%	77%	31%	61%
Asian/Pacific Islander	58%	97%	49%	91%
Hispanic	42%	74%	34%	60%

Data Source: Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. 2009-2010 data, Measurements of Student Progress test. Range is lowest and highest percent of students by race who met or exceeded math or reading standard across all public school districts. Summary by race/ethnicity not available as not all school districts reported data by race.

16) On-time graduation rate

American Indian	64%
Asian/Pacific Islander	85%
Black/African American non-Hispanic	65%
Hispanic	64%
White	85%
Total	81%

Data Source: Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. 2008-2009 data. Race/ethnicity is self-reported. When students report more than one racial/ethnic category, OSPI reports the category listed first.

A. Domestic Violence (2009 data) 59.3

Data Source: Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, Annual Crime in Washington Report, 2009. Rate is per 100,000 persons. Based on filed police reports.

B. Percent of children with special health care needs 14.4%

Data Source: Washington State data. National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs, 2005-2006.

C. Infant Mortality

King County	4.5
Mother's Race/Ethnicity	
African American	8.6
American Indian/Alaska Native	13.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.8
Hispanic/Latina	4.2
White	3.8

Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Linked Birth-Infant death data. Data for 2003-2007 combined. Rate is number of deaths per 1,000 live births.

D. Stressful Life Events and Social Support, King County 2002-2006

		African American non- Hispanic	American Indian/Alaska Native non- Hispanic	Hispanic
Stressful Life Events in Year before Delivery	King County			
Close family member ill and hospitalized	21%	23.1%	34.7%	16.6%
Separated or divorced from husband/partner	6.2%	16.9%	17.2%	9.5%
Moved to new address	35.5%	43.9%	53.1%	44.5%
Homeless	4%	9.4%	9.4%	20.5%
Husband/partner lost job	13.1%	15.1%	19.8%	16.1%
Mother lost job	8.1%	11.7%	14.1%	12.7%
Argued with husband/partner more than usual	20.3%	33%	34.5%	19.8%
Husband/partner didn't want pregnancy	6.9%	13%	11.6%	7.5%
Had bills and couldn't pay	16.6%	31.6%	29.7%	18.8%
In a physical fight	2.2%	8.1%	8.8%	3.6%
Mom or partner went to jail	2.4%	8.8%	16.8%	2.2%
Someone close had drinking/drug problem	8.6%	15%	32.5%	8.1%
Someone close died	14.6%	19.9%	26.9%	15%

Reported 6 or more stressful events	3.7%	10%	17.8%	4.6%
<u>Lack of social support during pregnancy:</u>				
No one to...				
Loan me \$50	19%	29%	23%	30%
Help me if sick and needed to be in bed	14%	17%	16%	23%
Take me to clinic/doctor's if needed a ride	11%	14%	15%	15%
Talk with about my problems	12%	14%	15%	20%

Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System. Prepared by: Public Health Seattle-King County; Assessment, Policy Development & Evaluation Unit. Percents shown are percent who reported "Yes" to each question.

E. Income and Basic Needs

Living Wage, Percent of Jobs that Pay less than a Living Wage in King County, and Ratio of Job Seekers to Living Wage Job Opportunities by Household Type

	Household 1	Household 2	Household 3	Household 4	Household 5
		Single adult with a school-age child (6-8 years)	Single adult with a toddler and a school- age child	Two adults (one working) with a toddler and a school-age child	Two adults (both working) with a toddler and a school-age child
	Single adult				
	\$25,685/year or \$12.35/hour	\$40,694/year or \$19.56/hour	\$58,293/year or \$28.03/hour	\$49,812/year or \$23.95/hour*	\$71,374/year or \$34.31/hour
Living Wage, 2006, King County					
	\$30,597/year or \$14.71/hour	\$48,693/year or \$23.41/hour	\$67,246/year or \$32.33/hour	\$59,176/year or \$28.45/hour	\$82,514/year or \$39.67/hour*
Living Wage, 2008, King County					
Jobs Paying less than a Living Wage, 2006, King County	24%	52%	76%	64%	varies
Job Seekers per Job Opening Paying Living Wage, Washington State, 2008	3:1	5:1	10:1	9:1	varies

*Two working adults would need a combined income of this amount

Unaffordable Housing

Percent of Households Paying more than 30% of Income for Housing

Percent of King County Households	39%
Percent of Households, Among all Owners with Mortgage	41%
Percent of Renter Households	46%

Housing that requires more than 30% of gross income is considered unaffordable. Data Source: Communities Count, Real-time Data Updates 2009

1. Due to rounding, numbers may not add up to total and percents may not add up to 100%.
2. The US Census Bureau collects data on households and families. A household consists of all the people living together in a house, apartment, mobile home, or group of rooms; this could be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements. A family consists of a household and one or more persons living in the same household who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Additional Region-Identified Measures.

The following measures are not specific to children birth to three but offer a valuable perspective on the ‘irreducible needs that must be met for children to succeed and thrive.’¹

DOMAIN OF NEED	KING COUNTY	DATA SOURCE/ INSTRUMENT
Affordable Wellness Care		
Percent of Children without Health Insurance	3.2%	<i>Communities Count 2008</i>
Stable, Secure Relationships		
Percent of Children Reporting a Low Quality of Life	8th — 20.6% 10th — 23.8% 12th — 28.5%	<i>Healthy Youth Survey 2006/ Hawkins & Catalano Quality of Life Scale</i>
Percent of Children Reporting They Have Been Abused by an Adult	8th — 16.4% 10th — 15.3% 12th — 16.4%	<i>Healthy Youth Survey 2006</i>
Learning Experiences		
Percent of Children with Problems in at Least One Area of School Readiness (Selected King County Cities)	Bellevue — 26.3% Shoreline — 29.2% Highline — 29.4%	<i>Communities Count 2005/Early Development Instrument (Updated in March 2006)</i>
Economic Opportunities		
Percent of Families Below Self-Sufficiency Standard	16.7%	<i>2007. Overlooked and Undercounted: Wages, Work, and Poverty in WA State/Self-Sufficiency Standard</i>
Affordable Housing		
Percent of Rental Housing Stock That is Affordable to Low and Very Low Income Households	Very Low — .1% Low — 43.9% Moderate — 50%	<i>Communities Count 2005</i>
Housing Affordability Gap for Median Income Home Buyers	Median Home Price: \$455,000 Affordable Home Price: \$249,500	<i>Communities Count 2008</i>
Safe Neighborhoods		
Percent of Adults Who Reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their neighborhood is close-knit. • People in their neighborhood can be trusted. • People in their neighborhood willing to help their neighbors. • People in their neighborhood do not share the same values. • People in their neighborhood generally don't get along with each other. 	54% 82% 84% 22% 8%	<i>Communities Count 2005/Taken from Robert Sampson's Instruments for Collective Efficacy</i>

In 2005-2006 a survey of Washington State childcare providers was done to determine rates of disenrollement, a risk factor for future school failure, with the following results.²

¹ “The Irreducible Needs of Families in King County,” King County Children and Family Commission, May, 2009.

² Hampton, E. O. (2008). Factors associated with the dismissal of young children (birth through five) from child care programs. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Washington
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Of those surveyed –

- 68 child care program directors indicated that they had disenrolled one or more children
- 149 or 2.5% of children were disenrolled (5951 represents the sum total of children that the 68 programs were licensed to serve)
- 4-year- olds were disenrolled with the greatest frequency
- Top two reasons cited for disenrollment –(1) children engaged in inappropriate behavior and (2) parent failure to make monthly payment

Gender

- 53% boys
- 25.5% girls
- 21.5% gender not specified

Age

- 4% less than 24 months old
- 12.1% - age 2
- 17.4% - age 3
- 22.8% - age 4
- 14.1% - age 5
- 12.8% - age 6 or older

Ethnicity

- 55% Caucasian
- 12.8% Black/African American
- 7.4% Mixed Race
- 4.7% Hispanic/Latino

Reasons Given Why One or More Children Disenrolled

- Engaged in inappropriate behavior – 60.3%
- Families failed to make monthly payments – 47.1%
- Unable to accommodate child's disabling condition – 16.2%
- Too many absences from child care – 11.8%
- Other - 25%

Childcare Programs	68
Children Served	5,951
Children Disenrolled	149 (2.5%)
Age < 24 months	6 (4%)
Age 2	18 (12.1%)
Age 3	26 (17.4%)
Age 4	34 (22.8%)
Age 5	21 (14.1%)
Age 6 or older	19 (12.8%)
Ethnicity	

Caucasian	82 (55%)
Black/African American	19 (12.8%)
Mixed Race	11 (7.4%)
Hispanic Latino	7 (4.7%)
Reason Expelled (N=68 childcare programs)	
Engaged in Inappropriate Behavior	41 (60.3%)
Failed to Make Monthly Payments	32 (47.1%)
Unable to Accommodate Child's Disabling Condition	11 (16.2%)
Too Many Absences	8 (11.8%)
Other	17 (25%)

b. **Regional Stakeholder Perspective.**

Quantitative data can only go so far in describing the issues and assets in King County. Stakeholders identified several issues inadequately captured by this data.

- Cultural diversity of our population is very complex and not captured well by race/ethnicity data.
- Data on language(s) spoken in the home only hints at the language diversity of families with young children and the tension families feel between learning English to succeed in school and not losing the native language which is such an important part of culture.
- It would be helpful if African American were separated into recent African immigrants and African Americans, since the needs of the two groups are very different.
- Data on developmental delay and infant mental health needs would add to the picture.
- Attachment and socio-emotional development is a concern.
- Increasing numbers of children in child care have developmental and mental health issues.
- Increasing numbers of children are in stress, reflecting family stress from the economy.
- Risk factors need to also include trauma from homelessness, child abuse and neglect, witnessing domestic violence, experience in foster care, and having an incarcerated parent, a parent who is mentally ill, or a parent who is incapacitated by drugs or alcohol.
- Suspension and disenrollment of young children from childcare is an important risk factor for future school suspension, expulsion, and academic failure.
- Safe, affordable housing is a major need of families that affects access to childcare and other resources.
- Currently pre-natal care is poor or there is a lack of access to prenatal care which results in devastating impacts on the child's growth and ongoing development

c. **Telling the Story.**

Families and children in King County cannot be easily characterized. While King County has a high median income and good outcome measures, there are many pockets of poverty and a number of communities at risk.

In 2008 there were 25,222 live births in King County. 47% of all births were to women who were of a race/ethnicity other than white non-Hispanic. This indicates that the trend toward greater diversity in the birth to five population is continuing to increase. The proportion of children birth to five of a race/ethnicity other than white non Hispanic was 43% in 2009. This change in demographics will significantly impact the system of services that are currently in place.

The need for multi-lingual staff with the expertise needed will need to increase. Increased cultural competence and

sensitivity across all organizations serving families and young children will be required in order to meeting the changing needs of King County.

As in many areas of the United States, the numbers and proportion of Hispanic births is increasing. One of the reasons for this is that a higher proportion of Hispanics are in their childbearing years than in other racial/ethnic groups. However, King County has much greater diversity than most other areas in the United States because it was a destination for migration of African Americans from the South; it has welcomed many immigrants from Asia, SE Asia, Mexico and South America, Africa, and Eastern Europe; and its relatively healthy job market has attracted a number of undocumented immigrants seeking work. More than 1 in every 3 (38.2%) children under 6 has a parent who was born outside the United States. Some school districts in King County identify as many as 53 different languages spoken by their students and 23.2% of households speak a language other than English in the home.

King County has a slightly lower proportion of families with children than the state as a whole. 224,400 families in King County have children under 18; 96,300 (43%) have a child under 6. Of the children under 6, 59.2% have all parents in the workforce, so are in the 'care zone' of needing non-parental care for some part of their daily life.

Poverty is the most important predictor of every health and educational outcome. 9,278 (36.8%) of births in 2008 were covered by Medicaid, an indicator that the family income was under 185% FPL. 25.8% of children under 18 live in low income households (200% FPL) and 13.5% of children under 5 live below the poverty threshold. Of the households with children under 18, 26.4% have a single head of household, a factor associated with higher rates of poverty. 32.2% of children in schools received free or reduced price meals in the 2008-2009 school year, another indication of poverty.

Health risks that affect infants and children show disparities in populations of color and low income. Teen birth rates in King County for 2006-2008 were 10.4 births per 1000 females age 15-19, half the national rate. However, among Black non-Hispanic teens the rate was 18, among Native American/Alaska Natives 33.6, and among Hispanic ethnicity it was 53.5. Rates are also higher in neighborhoods with high poverty than in those with low levels of poverty.

In 2008 6.5% of babies were born at low birth weight, a risk factor associated with a variety of health and developmental issues throughout life. In 2003-2007 infant mortality was the lowest it has ever been, 4.5 deaths per 1000 live births. However, the rate varied considerably by race/ethnicity, with an African-American rate of 8.6 and American Indian/Alaska Native rate of 13.7. Here too rates are higher in neighborhoods with high poverty than in those with low levels of poverty.

In the National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs, 14.4% of children were noted to have a health issue that required care above the norm. While we do not know the actual incidence of special needs in King County, 1.8% of children age birth to three in King County were enrolled in early intervention services in 2009. Stakeholders noted the increasingly complex needs of children birth to three, including special health care needs, behavior problems, and mental health issues.

Measures of school success show similar disparities to other indicators, although even the overall indicators are not encouraging. 76.9% of King County 3rd grade students overall met the reading standard and 71.2% the math standard, but rates varied significantly between districts and between racial/ethnic groups. On-time graduation showed similar disparities: In the 2008-2009 school year, 81% of students overall graduated on time. It is important to note that for youth of color the disaggregated data tells a different story: only 64% of American Indian, 65% of Black/African-American, and 64% of Hispanics graduated on time.

III. Services, Systems & Supports in King County.

a. Services & Supports Inventory for King County.

1. Child care subsidies

#infants and toddlers (Birth-3) served with child care subsidies

average monthly count	3511
total count	8585

Data Source: DEL, May 2009-April 2010. Data are for eligibility criteria of families < 200% FPL; impact of changing eligibility to 175% FPL not quantified at this time.

City of Seattle Child Care Assistance Program--Infants and Toddlers served

average monthly count	48
total count	101

Data Source: City of Seattle Child Care Assistance Program, 1/1/2009-12/31/2009.
City Subsidy program has 130 providers (both centers and homes).

Subsidies

City of Issaquah	2 children
City of Bellevue	47 children
City of Kent	23 children
City of Redmond	17 children

Data Source: Child Care Resources, 2009 data.

	Number	Percent
% licensed child care providers serving children using subsidies	1524	66.4%

2. Child care arrangements

#/% of families by type of childcare arrangement [among those in regularly scheduled care]

Parental	not applicable
child care center	32%
part day preschool	16%
family child care provider	13%
family/friend/ neighbor	25%
nanny/babysitter	10%

Data Source: Communities Count, 2008. Percent for children birth through age 5 who are in regularly scheduled child care

3. Child care availability

#licensed center-based provider sites

Number
590

Age at which child can start at center

Starting from Age <12 months	258
12-23 months	107
24- less than 30 months	10
30 months	42
31-48 months	63
49-59 months	0
60 months or more	110

Data Source: DEL, May 2009-April 2010.

#licensed center-based provider slots

Total	40355
school-age	17285
pre-school	25373
Toddler	6135
Infant	1785

Data Source: Child Care Resources. 2009 data. Number of total licensed slots may exceed existing slots.

#licensed family child care provider sites 1475**Age at which child can start at family child care provider**

Starting from Age <12 months	1392
12-23 months	17
24- less than 30 months	48
30 months	0
31-48 months	10
49-59 months	0
60 months or more	8

Data Source: DEL, May 2009-April 2010.

#licensed family child care provider slots

total	12380
school-age	8326
pre-school	11956
toddler	3788
infant	3624

Data Source: Child Care Resources. 2009 data. Number of total licensed slots may exceed existing slots.

4. Child Care Health and Safety**#valid complaints among licensed child care facilities for unsafe or unhealthy environments**

127

Data Source: DEL, 8/2010. Includes both centers and family care providers.

5. Child care referrals**#/%of all child care referrals by age**

	Number	Percent
infants	1485	23%
toddlers	2070	32%
preschool	1383	21%
total calls (all ages)	39,366	
total children (all ages)	7,100	

Data Source: Child Care Resources. 2009 data

6. Child Care Cost**Median cost of full-time care (annual) for King County Licensed Child Care**

	Center	Family CC
infant care	\$14,820	\$10,410
toddler care	\$12,012	\$9,256
%median household income	Center	Family CC
infant care	24%	17%
toddler care	19%	15%

Data Source: Child Care Resources. 2009 rates. 2009 median household income of \$62,810 used in calculation.

7. Early Intervention Services

Number of infants and toddlers considered eligible for ESIT Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (formerly ITEIP) services as of 8/6/2010

1385

Number of infants and toddlers served annually (7/1/09-6/30/10)

2744

		Number	Percent
Most prevalent services:	Speech/Language Pathology	911	36.5
	Special Instruction/Special Education	515	20.6
	Occupational Therapy	504	20.2
	Physical Therapy	316	12.7
	Family Training, Counseling, and Home Visits	114	4.6

Data Source: ESIT data, on 8/6/10. King County Developmental Disabilities Division.

8. Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program ECEAP

#enrolled (3 years old ONLY)

138

(Total number of children enrolled for any length of time during the 2010 school year)

#slots (total number of slots for 3 and 4-year olds)

1075

%ECEAP slots that are fully enrolled

100% assumed

#ECEAP sites

32

#on ECEAP waitlist

age 3

315

age 4

181

% of ECEAP children with up-to-date well-child exams

84.8% of 3-year olds

91.7% of 4-year olds

(Not on list: Up-to-date dental screenings)

86.2% of 3-year olds

93.4% of 4-year olds

Data Source: Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, 2009-2010 school year

9. Early Head Start (EHS)

#enrolled in EHS

children with home visiting (2008-9)

211

Total

354

Prenatal

in development

birth-12 months

in development

13 months to 2 years

in development

25 months to 3 years

in development

#total EHS slots

in development

#EHS programs

5?

#EHS sites

5?

#on EHS waitlist

in development

Data Source: Washington State Home Visit Needs Assessment. September 2010.

10. Developmental Screening Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Medicaid enrollees)

% receiving at least one periodic or diagnostic screen (Medicaid children)

Not available

Well-child care rates

Infants (first 15 months)

63.6%

Children (Ages 3-6 years old)

65.9%

Data source: DSHS, 2008 Performance Measure Analysis and Report.
 Infant rates calculated for infants with 6 or more well-child care visits.

11. Evidence-based home visiting programs

Nurse Family Partnership

#programs	3
#pregnant women and children served	532

Data Source: Washington State Home Visit Needs Assessment. September 2010.
 #pregnant women and children served (2009-10)

Parents as Teachers (PAT)

#programs	2
#of families served	361

Data Source: Washington State Home Visit Needs Assessment. September 2010. Data cover FY 2009.
 In 2009, Healthy Start served 335 families in King County.

Parent Child Home Programs

#programs	3
#of families served	402

Data Source: Washington State Home Visit Needs Assessment. September 2010. Data cover 2007-9.

12. Child Welfare

#children served by Child Protective Services CPS (eg case management)	11936	3%
#in foster care	1656	0.4%

Data Source: WA State Dept Social and Health Services. Percent of children under 18.
 Foster care=foster care placement services. July 2006-June 2007 data.

13. Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)

#individuals receiving TANF support	45650
%use rate for TANF	2.5%

Data Source: WA State Dept Social and Health Services. July 2006-June 2007 data.

14. Women, Infant & Children (WIC)

#infants and children under 5 served by WIC	46267	41.2%
% of infants born served by WIC		37%

Data Source: Washington State Department of Health, Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. FFY 2009.

15. Prenatal Care

% of pregnant women receiving first trimester prenatal care	77.9%
% of pregnant women who received late or no prenatal care	5.7%

Data Source: Birth Certificate Data: WA State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. 2008 data.

16. Children's Health Care and Insurance

%children under 18 who are uninsured	4.3%, approximately
--------------------------------------	---------------------

17,000

**#enrolled in the Children's Medical Program Apple Health for Children
Age 0-3**

24225 27%

Data Source: WA DSHS Apple Health for Kids ages 0-3, June 2010. up to 300% FPL;
includes Medicaid (<200% FPL). Washington State Population Survey, 2008.

**A. Teacher and Family Care Compensation in Licensed Child Care
Centers in King County, 2008**

	Median monthly income	Average monthly income
Assistants	\$1733	\$1768
Leads	\$2080	\$2257
Supervisors	\$2600	\$2886
Directors	\$3160	\$4962

**Percent Centers Providing Benefits to Lead Teachers in licensed Child
Care Centers in King County, 2008**

Paid sick leave	79.7%
Paid vacation	84%
Medical Insurance	73.5%

Annual Earnings of Family Home Providers, 2008

Median annual	Average annual
\$39,000	\$51,149

Data Source: Washington State 2008 Child Care Survey.

**B. Teacher and Family Care Turnover in Licensed Child Care Facilities
Percent of staff newly hired, 2008**

Assistants	35.8%
Leads	20.2%
Supervisors	15.3%
Directors	10.1%

Data Source: Washington State 2008 Child Care Survey. Survey conducted May-July 2008; recently hired= since Sept 2007. Data not available specific to infant/toddler teachers.

C. Vacancy Rate: Percent of licensed centers with Vacancies by Age Group, 2008

Infant	8.7%
Toddler	14.2%
Preschool	27.6%
Kindergarten	14.9%
School-age	20.7%
Any Vacancies	48.0%

Data Source: Washington State 2008 Child Care Survey

D. Licensed Child Care Center Population by Age Group,

Full-time	Infant	1696
	Toddler	5468
	Preschool	14196
Part-time	Infant	361
	Toddler	1362
	Preschool	6826

Data Source: Washington State 2008 Child Care Survey

E. Vacancy Rate in Licensed Family Child Care Homes, 2008

Children less than 2 years	32%
Any vacancies	58.2%

Data Source: Washington State 2008 Child Care Survey

F. Licensed Family Home Population by Age Group, 2008

Full-time	Infant	400
	Toddler	1349
	Preschool	2188
Part-time	Infant	204
	Toddler	642
	Preschool	1330

Data Source: Washington State 2008 Child Care Survey

G. Serving Children with Subsidies, 2008

Centers (Licensed)	Percent serving subsidized children	68%
	Percent willing to serve subsidized children	75.3%
	Percent limiting subsidized children	23%
	Average limit on subsidized children	11
Family Homes (Licensed)	Percent serving subsidized children	50.3%
	Percent willing to serve subsidized children	63.4%

Data Source: Washington State 2008 Child Care Survey

H. Homeless Children King County receiving child care services support

Families served	478
Children served	1015 (2.12 children per family)
Percent adults experienced domestic violence	46%
Percent of families headed by a single adult	76%

Data Source: Child Care Resources Homeless Program. As of September 9, 2010 there were 433 families served in 2010.

I. Education level of Teachers in licensed programs)

Owners of Family Homes, 2008

Family Home Provider's Highest Level of Education	Have Associate Degree in Child Development or a CDA	15.5%
	Have Bachelor or Graduate Degree in Early Childhood Development	4.0%
	Less than 12th grade	16%
	High School Graduate	21%
	Vocational	6%
	Some College	45%

Data Source: Washington State 2008 Child Care Survey. Washington State Data only. Not provided for Center teachers.

J. School Readiness

Scored not ready for school in at least	1 domain	2 domains
Bellevue	29.6%	14.1%
Highline	28.3%	14.6%
Shoreline	25.8%	14.3%
International Normative Cohort (reference group)	27.2%	13.6%

Data Source: Communities Count, 2008. Three school districts implemented the Early Development Instrument (EDI) survey in 2008. The EDI measures how ready kindergarten children are for school. 5 areas (domains) of school readiness are measured: physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills, communication and general knowledge. The 3 districts cannot be compared to each other. Comparisons should only be made to an International Normative Cohort Score.

b. Regional Stakeholder Perspective.

1. Lack of affordable infant/toddler care in King County at times when parents need it.

- Child care, particularly infant care, is not affordable for families in lower to middle income jobs, yet costs are not sufficient to fund high quality care.
- Subsidies are not available for all who need them and the system to receive subsidy is complex and difficult for families.
- Subsidized rates are inadequate as revenue to allow child care providers to function as a small business and assure quality care.
- There is a lack of part time care, even though many women go back to work part time while their child is young, and subsidies are not available for part time care.
- Women do not all have six weeks of maternity leave, or may have no paid leave and have to return to work, yet child care facilities cannot take infants under 4 weeks and many are not willing to take infants under 2 months because of the additional caretaking required. These families must turn to family, friend, or neighbor (FFN) care, regardless of quality.
- Families needing care for non-standard hours or days have an especially difficult time finding care and most frequently must use FFN care, yet even fewer resources exist to support quality in FFN providers.
- Families who adopt children often find out with little advanced notice, so waiting lists for infant placements (a common practice) are a significant barrier.
- Families note the need for drop in or emergency care resources and respite care resources for children with special needs.
- Families who want child care that respects their cultural practices (diet, toileting, language, discipline) have few choices and most frequently turn to FFN care, regardless of quality.
- In the Samoan focus group, a young woman told her story of dropping out of school to care for younger siblings because her parents had to work and no affordable child care was available.

2. Inconsistent quality in infant/toddler care

- Lack of pay equity for women and 'women's work' is an issue especially for infant/toddler teachers who, even within the profession, are not validated as true teachers.
- Lack of pay and benefits lead to inability to attract and keep skilled staff. One-third of childcare workers turn over every year.
- Infant room ratios are too high to allow development of attachment between caregiver and child essential for normal socio-emotional development. It is hard to have time to do anything beyond meeting physical needs.

- Many staff lack focused training or expertise for caring for infants/toddlers, there is little to no “curriculum” or learning goals in place, and the philosophy of infant and toddler care in many programs is unclear. Consequently, many early learning staff lack or misunderstand the developmental needs of infant/toddlers in their care, are not able to distinguish what is typical and what is not, do not understand how to be available and responsive to children, do not know how to manage groups of children, and are unable to problem-solve around children’s behavior.
- Financial pressures and lack of understanding of developmental needs result in little management support for consistent caregiver scheduling, keeping skilled providers in infant/toddler rooms, time for staff to plan for strategies to support the individual needs of each child in care, and classrooms are not supplied with enough appropriate materials for learning through play.
- Studies have shown a high rate of depression among child care providers; especially family child care providers. – what affect does that have on the children?
- Many child care providers lack health insurance and paid sick leave. This lack of access to health care providers lead is to greater exposure of children to illness.

3. Increasingly complex needs of infants and toddlers in child care.

- More children with medical needs, poor attachment, lagging development, behavior problems and high levels of stress are being served in child care settings.
- Lack of early identification for special needs, especially identification that is culturally sensitive and relevant, results in many children who are not yet getting any help from their medical provider or the early intervention system.
- , There are not enough resources and or access to mental health services for children with identified challenges
- There is little to no training in basic child development let alone training on children with special needs, resulting in a serious lack of child care capacity for children with disabilities, developmental delays, and/or behavior challenges
- There are seemingly no places available for children who have problem behaviors or needs that are challenging for programs to accommodate.

4. Diverse cultures’ values and practices and languages aren’t supported in child care settings.

- Providers lack the tools/skills needed to support diverse cultures and languages. Providers need to increase their understanding of the value of other cultures and languages being represented in their child care settings.
- Providers and parents who don’t speak the same language have barriers to communication and understanding.
- Different cultural practices around diet, toileting, discipline can confuse the child and lead to misunderstanding and lack of trust.
- Parents worry about English language acquisition when their provider’s first language is not English.
- Caregivers who are not fluent in English may not speak to children thinking the children won’t understand. This lack of speaking may interfere with language acquisition.
- Parents may worry that the child is losing their native language.

5. Need to develop stronger relationships between families and caregivers

- Lack of understanding of what early care and education means for infants and toddlers (both from providers and parents).
- Parents are afraid of complaining to caregivers about quality issues because they fear it could negatively impact their child’s care.
- No easy way to communicate with the providers privately due to the nature of pick up and drop off: This is especially true when dealing with harder issues.
- Many child care programs lack parent engagement strategies beyond the enrollment process.
- Child care providers lack the skill set to serve as a resource to families as they ‘parent’ their children through all stages.

- Lack of parent resources in the community – mental health, parenting education, consumer education that is affordable, flexible and accessible.

6. Diminishing system supports for licensed center and family child care providers due to lack of funding.

- Community needs to commit to quality and support it by funding the ‘safety net’ for providers.
- Funding reductions have led to diminished access to health consultants (physical and mental health) and health training, including medication management.
- Lack of licensor training to monitor compliance on health and safety issues.
- Reduced funding for general technical assistance for child care providers.
- Needs to be more collaboration between child care providers and early intervention providers for on-site support.
- STARS (State Training and Registry System) credits should better focus on skills needed to take better advantage of diminished resources. This system is in transition to a new system named Merit.

c. Telling the Story.

The system of supports for King County families with children birth to three and their caregivers has many bright spots – evidence-based and promising practices and innovations – but lacks the capacity to serve all families and caregivers who could benefit. As a result, some children do not receive the care and nurturing they need for healthy brain development and socio-emotional growth. These children have missed this opportunity for optimum development and the impact will be felt throughout their lives.

Optimum development begins with a healthy birth, and the systems that support families to have a healthy baby are comparatively robust in King County. Men and women below 200% FPL are eligible for family planning services under a Medicaid Take Charge waiver that allows a measure of pregnancy planning. All pregnant women below 185% FPL are eligible for Medicaid services, which include medical and dental care and maternity support services, education and counseling services from an interdisciplinary team of a nurse, nutritionist, social worker and community health worker. (Both Take Charge and Maternity Support Services are on a list of state funding cuts that may be enacted January 1, 2011.)

Because of availability at sites across the county, 91.8% of pregnant women covered by Medicaid receive Maternity Support Services, which has been shown to reduce the risk of low birth weight by 8%. WIC, which provides supplemental nutrition for pregnant women, infants and children, is also readily available and serves 41.2% of the infants and children under 5. Both programs perform a key function in the system of referral into medical care and other needed services.

Children in families with incomes up to 300% FPL are eligible for Apple Health medical assistance and 24,225 children birth to 3 are enrolled. Infant case management is available for higher risk infants on Medicaid through the first year of life to assure that they are linked to the services they and their family need. (Infant case management is also on the list of state funding cuts that may be enacted January 1, 2011. A reduction of Apple Health to 200% FPL is also proposed.)

Evidence-based home visiting programs are available in King County, but serve only a fraction of eligible families. All have significant benefits on the child’s health and development, as well as improving parenting skills.

Referrals to Child Protective Service (CPS) have declined in the last decade. Analysts speculate that the societal norm on the acceptability of beating children has changed, surely a spot of good news. In 2006-2007, 11,936 children were served in the child welfare system and 1,656 of them were in foster care.

Non-parental child care is the part of the system most used by families of all income levels and cultural groups. It is an underfunded system across the United States in comparison to other countries and it is no different in King County. Philosophers ponder what it is about American culture that we invest so grudgingly in the care of our future, but regardless of the reason, the result is harmful to child health and development.

Because so little is invested by government in supporting non-parental care, the cost is primarily borne by parents themselves. This creates a seemingly insoluble dilemma of unaffordable care for families and unsustainable businesses for the child care provider. Key informants, stakeholders and parents agree that affordability is a major problem. Quality improvement efforts require investment and yet may make care harder for low and middle income families to access.

Government subsidies to offset part of the cost of child care for low income working families are a significant help. In addition to Working Connections Child Care for families receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) the cities of Seattle, Bellevue, Redmond, and Kent provide subsidies for their low income residents. In addition, CCR provides funding for child care for homeless families. Child care providers accepting subsidies can be required to meet quality benchmarks or participate in quality improvement efforts. The City of Seattle has a well developed program of supports for the facilities that accept their subsidies. There is far more demand for subsidy than available funding, and lack of subsidy prevents some parents from being able to work. Unfortunately, eligibility for Working Connections Child Care was reduced from 200% FPL to 175% October 1, 2010 because of state budget shortfalls. The work requirement for both parents in a two-parent household was also eliminated so that only one parent will be required to work, enabling the other parent to provide child care.

Licensing is one way that the state government seeks to assure a basic level of quality in childcare. Yet it is estimated that less than 50% of children are served by licensed child care providers, with the remainder being served in unlicensed group care, family, friend or neighbor care, or in-home care by a nanny or babysitter. Initial licensing inspections assure a minimum level of safety within the environment, follow up visits are expected to occur annually for centers and every 18 months for family child care homes. In reality, in King County, many programs are visited less frequently due to high caseloads of the Department of Early Learning licensing staff. Programs that receive a complaint are visited immediately and some complaint free programs may not see a licenser for several years at a time.

In order to improve the quality of infant/toddler care, the status and level of training of infant and toddler caregivers must be increased. Parents and child care providers need to understand the critical nature of the first three years of life and the importance of having skilled caregivers who are providing the nurturing care that promotes development. With such a culturally diverse community, it is especially important that our caregivers be of diverse backgrounds and appreciate the ways that different cultures achieve healthy development. Training and skills building needs to include dealing with differences between children, whether that be accommodation to a special health care need, modification of classroom management to deal with a behavior problems, or adjusting the learning methods to better meet a child's needs.

Consultation and technical assistance has been a strength of the system in King County, much frayed in recent years due to budget cuts. Child Care Resources, the Public Health Child Care Health team and the state child care licensors form a safety-net of support for child care providers that can identify issues, recommend solutions, and provide needed training. However, even before recent budget cuts, this safety net didn't stretch to all licensed providers and rarely reached those unlicensed and family, friend and neighbor providers.

IV. Strengths, Assets & Context.

	High Level Observations About your Data To Help Guide Your Planning	What Data Support this Observation
1	Lack of Affordable, quality infant/toddler care in King County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Median Income level • Number of children receiving free or reduced price meals • # of poor and low-income children • Child Care Subsidies • Child Care Availability • Cost of Child Care • Vacancy Rate

2	Increasingly complex needs of infants and toddlers in child care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of children with special health care needs. • % of babies born with low birth weight • # of Children disenrolled from child care • Education Level of Teachers • Teacher and Family Care Compensation • Stressful Life Events and Social Support
3	Diverse cultures' values, practices and languages aren't supported in child care settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of population who speak a language other than English at home. • # of children of immigrant and refugee families
4	Need to develop stronger relationships between families and caregivers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Violence • Stressful Life Events • # of children disenrolled from child care • Teacher and Family Care Turnover
5	Diminishing system supports for licensed center and family child care providers due to lack of funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuts to funding for community based organizations and public organizations (public health, higher education, CCR, etc.) that support all areas of infant toddler issues.